



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Lake Accotink Dredging Project Gets Underway

When the Army came to town in the early 1900's planners knew that a source of water would be needed to support the troops located at the Belvoir estate. So they decided to build a dam. Originally known as the Springfield Dam, the 1918 structure created Lake Accotink. It cost \$100,000 to build, a mere drop in the bucket when compared to the \$8 million dredging project slated to begin next week. After years of planning, pumps will begin the process of removing 161,000 cubic yards of silt from the lake on Monday, June 19, 2006.

More than half a million visitors come to this Fairfax County Park Authority facility each year to picnic or hike, ride the carousel or enjoy a paddle boat ride. The lake, located in Springfield, Virginia, covered 110 acres when purchased by the Park Authority in the mid-1960's. It was originally 23 feet deep. Due to increased siltation, Lake Accotink covers just 55 acres today and varies in depth from one to ten feet in many places. This is the third dredging project in its history and will restore the lake for at least the next decade. Average lake depth will be six to seven feet after the dredging. Project completion is slated for the spring of 2007.

Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova said of the project, "Lake Accotink is a real community treasure. People are thrilled that the dredging is finally underway and that the viability of the lake will be maintained. I'm especially happy that the dredging method will allow for water to remain in the lake. Fish and wildlife will be mostly undisturbed, and park activities can continue throughout the summer and fall."

The use of hydraulic dredging was preferred over mechanical dredging in order to minimize disruption to the park and surrounding neighborhood. The slurry will be pumped through a 14-inch pipeline that will run from the park, along a nearby railroad line, across Backlick Road to the disposal site which belongs to Virginia Concrete and is located in the Shirley Park Industrial Complex – approximately three miles from the lake. The contract was awarded to Mobile Dredging and Pumping Company of Pennsylvania in September, 2005.

For more information please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or call the Park at 703-569-0285. A history of the park and details of the dredging project can also be referenced online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/>.

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